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## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

### DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

The SPEAKER. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Just like last week, we are going to do nothing this week. This is really a do-nothing Congress.

Mr. Speaker, let us look at today's schedule. There are not very many Members here. We can look around and see that hardly anybody is here. Well, we have got two little bills that will be debated on and not even voted on today. If they are voted on, they will be voted on tomorrow. So, Mr. Speaker, we do not do much today.

We have one that says, "Municipal Solid Waste Flow Control." That will take about 20 minutes to a half-hour. Then we have got one that says, "Land Disposal Program Flexibility." That will take about another half-hour. So we are going to be here for an hour today, hour-and-a-half at the very most, and then we are going to quit.

Mr. Speaker, then we are going to come back tomorrow, and tomorrow the schedule says we are going to take up the welfare farm bill. That is what

it is; a big welfare program for the big farmers. They call it the Agriculture Market Transition Act, but I do not know if we are going to take it up tomorrow for the simple reason that it is still in committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am on the Committee on Agriculture. We are supposed to go into a markup at 2 o'clock on that bill. They have already scheduled it for tomorrow, so I guess they assume that it is going to be reported out of committee and the Committee on Rules will meet tonight and we will take it up tomorrow.

If we do not do that tomorrow, then there will be nothing for tomorrow, except maybe they are saying that they may devise, under the leadership of their chairman of the Committee on the Budget, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH], a budget patterned after what the President proposed. They call it the President's budget.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we had one of those foolish things last December. They tried to do that crazy stuff, and it does not go anywhere. Even if it is voted on, it never becomes law. We spend hours debating something and voting on it, it is never going to become law. That is what we did all last year. We are doing it again.

Then, Mr. Speaker, they are talking about maybe Thursday we are going to have the President of France here in a joint session. Many of us, I am sure are not going to be here for the simple reason that we disagree with France and their nuclear testing policies.

We may take up a sense-of-the-Congress resolution, they tell me, and that does not become law. So what are we going to do? Nothing. What did we do last week? Nothing.

What should we do? I will tell my colleagues what we should do, and think most of the responsible Members of this House know, Mr. Speaker, that this week, right now, in order to soothe the concerns of our financial commu-

nity, the bondholders and everybody, we should be passing a debt limit bill to increase the debt limit.

Mr. Speaker, I do not care if we do it for 60 days or 30 days or 6 months or a year; whether it is for \$5.5, \$5.7 trillion, whatever maximum. My Republican colleagues have already done it. They did it in their budget resolution, their reconciliation bill last year. So, Mr. Speaker, I do not see why we do not just go ahead and pass one; send it to the Senate. They will pass it, and we can get past that hurdle.

No, Mr. Speaker, we are not going to do that. We are not going to do something that needs to be done and has to be done so that this country does not go into bankruptcy, and so that we do not default and become a Third World power, so that we do not go into a recession. They tell me that after Thursday, we are going to recess all the way to February 26.

Mr. Speaker, Treasury Secretary Rubin has said that March 1 we go into bankruptcy, we go into default if the debt limit is not increased. What are we waiting on, Mr. Speaker? For those Members, both Republican and Democrat, who feel like I do that we need to do something about the debt limit, we need to increase the debt limit, there is a discharge petition up here. Mr. Speaker, 154 Members have signed. We only need 64 more. Surely there are 64 Republicans that are responsible that will be glad to bring it out, and we can bring it out and pass it and let it become law.

Now, Mr. Speaker, about this little thing right here. If this bill ever gets to the floor, I want my colleagues to know that I am going to be fighting it tooth and toenail. It is the biggest welfare bill that has ever hit this House. The other side talks about AFDC; they talk about food stamps. That is nothing.

Mr. Speaker, would you believe that under this bill, farmers in Texas and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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